

Dear Editor

Having read the recent letters on your web site submitted by Mr Duffield and his Legal representatives I would like to point out some concerns I have with the content.

Mr Duffield purchased the land on the 15th June 2009. (Land registry Title No ON219347) Prior to this the land was owned by Mr and Mrs Wooster. They rented/ leased the field to Mr Cumber. He used the field to produce hay. This has been the case for some years. It has not "always been used for grazing animals".

Whilst Mr Duffield states the field was "fenced off" this would be correct in that at some point, it had been. The fact that the fence could be ridden over on a cycle would indicate the condition it was in prior to his ownership and that had been the case for some time. Furthermore one of the gates which people could use (probably the most used) to enter the field once it had been fenced off has been replaced by barbed wire. I am confused why these repairs only appear to have been carried out at the part of the field that adjoins the village, when the remainder of the field on the east side still has large gaps in the fence. Is this coincidence or has this just not been repaired yet?

Mr Duffield also states "in recent years there has also been an electric fence within the the fixed fence" Does he mean in the year since he bought the land? In my memory this is as long as it has been there.

He also makes comment regarding the letter in the November issue, stating that "past access to the orchard, which would have been physically impossible for any member of the public". This is simply not the case, as the whole of the external areas of the Dow Agro site could be walked around, due to either holes in the fence or over the gate where it adjoined the land belonging to Mr Cumber.

Finally I am concerned that according to OLSWANG, Mr Duffield's legal representatives that Dow Chemicals, a substantial organisation, had passed on a site with "deliberately infected trees" leaving him to clear up the mess. I have spoken with Dow Chemicals who have not been able to verify this so far.

HUGH LOGAN

Dear Editor,

Thank you for sending me an advance copy of Mr Logan's latest letter, and for the opportunity to make comments.

There are some points in his letter which are incorrect or misleading (such as the date of my purchase, the identities of the vendors and some of his comments about the Dow Chemical orchard).

There are also two points which I would like to comment on, as follows. First, if it is the case that the land has not always been used for grazing, it certainly has been grazed in the summer and/or in the autumn for the overwhelming majority of past years. The electric fence has been on 'live' all the time that animals have been on the land since parts of the fixed fence got into poor
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condition.

Secondly, Mr Logan asks whether I mean that the electric fence has been in place since I bought the land. No, I mean for some years before I bought the land. His memory is wrong.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN DUFFIELD

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the annual meeting of the Council held on 12th May, Mr. David Walton was elected Chairman for the forthcoming year and Mr. Peter Rowe as Vice-Chairman. Mr. William Cumber will represent the parish on the Hills Aggregates Liaison Committee. This Committee acts as a forum for discussion on the operation of the gravel and sand extraction sites at the northern end of the parish. Various other appointments were made and your village councillors will look after planning and other issues within the village and represent the Council on other outside bodies. The Council would thank Mr. Malcolm Denton for being its Chairman over the past two years and for the initiatives he has started in various capacities.

Oxfordshire Trading Standards

Oxfordshire County Councils Trading Standards Service is warning consumers to guard themselves against fraudsters when buying tickets online for forthcoming summer concerts and festivals. Trading Standards has already started to receive complaints from consumers who think they may have purchased tickets from untrustworthy websites. It is not difficult to be taken in by some of these con websites as they can look very professional. If you are looking to buy tickets for an event, then try and do as much homework as you can on the website beforehand. Report any suspicious traders or websites to Oxfordshire Trading Standards on 0845 051 0845.

To avoid being disappointed and out of pocket then follow the following advice:

- Beware of sites selling tickets to events that haven't gone on sale or that guarantee tickets to events that have been sold out for months.
- Put the website name into an internet search engine to see what you can find out.
- Make sure the company behind the website provides a full street address for their business, not just a Post Office or mail box number. And try its UK landline phone number.
- Be wary of buying from a site that only gives an email address or mobile phone number. Just because a website ends in '.co.uk', it does not necessarily mean that it is based in the UK.
- Where no limited company name and number is given on the web site, the customer should contact the trader in advance of the purchase and request true ownership details. If the trader won't give these, stay away from the site.
- Ask for details: What type of seat/ticket are you buying? What is the face value of the ticket? How much is the ticket being sold for and are there any additional charges? When will the ticket be dispatched and how will you be notified? What happens if things go wrong? What is the company's policy on refunds?
- Pay for tickets by credit card. Under the Consumer Credit Act, your card issuer is jointly liable for the failure to provide goods or services if the cash price of a single ticket is

over £100.

Visit the Trading Standards website for details of the latest scams www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/latestscams

Vale District Council - New Waste Collection

The District Council has announced that the plans for the new waste collection service which starts in October are coming along well. They are starting to promote the new service to residents. The first part of the publicity will involve a leaflet delivered to every house in the Vale setting out how the new service will work and details of when the new bins will be delivered. The start of the delivery of leaflets commences after the May Bank Holiday weekend, so look out for your leaflet soon.

Cow Lane Allotments / Paddocks

There are currently very few plots left available for letting as allotments at the Cow Lane allotment site. Once they have been let, the Council will start a waiting list for plots. The adjacent pony paddocks are available for rent and the Parish Council is inviting tenders for letting for one year, either one or both paddocks. If anyone is interested, would he/she please contact the Clerk who details appear below. Please note that the Council is not obliged to accept the highest or any offer for the paddocks.

Best Kept Garden Competition

As a reminder the Council would say that it is not organising a best kept garden competition this year. It has been agreed that it would be held on alternate years, to avoid a degree of repetitiveness. So the keen gardeners among you will have to wait until 2011 to receive recognition for your hard work.

Rural Footpaths

Comments are being received that grass cuttings are being dumped on the rural footpaths and that wild flowers that might be growing at the edge are being cut down. The Council will continue to monitor the footpaths, and if anyone has any concerns about them then please contact the clerk.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 9 June 2010 at 7.30pm. in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place.

Clerk to the Council: Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Rd, 01865 391833 clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

PCSO REPORT

There have recently been reports of Criminal Damage in the village of Marcham in the form of vehicle windows being smashed with bricks. It is believe that this was committed by young boys aged 8-9. This behaviour is not acceptable in the village and I am asking parents to take responsibility for the behaviour of your children and ensure that they are aware of the consequences of these actions. I urge residents and visitors to the village to either contact myself or ring the non emergency number, 0845 8 505 505, with any information or sightings, all of which will be kept totally confidential. We are taking this matter very seriously and will deal with the offenders promptly.

PCSO **LAURA SCHMID** 0845 8 505 505